Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Science Workgroup Meeting

March 20, 2007
Resources Agency Bldg., Room 1131

Draft Meeting Summary

Co-chairs: Ann Hayden, Brent Walthall

Associated documents/handouts:
- Agenda
- Guidance for the NCCP Independent Science Advisory Process (.pdf document)

Action Items and Key Recommendations to the Steering Committee:
- Follow the approach of having a strong lead scientist with appropriate coordination/facilitation support. Lead scientist would then work with Steering Committee to form panel of science advisors to address scientific input needs.
- Panel approach is appropriate, but with flexibility to add more scientists as needed
- As science advisors are identified, look for the following expertise: fish biologist, ecologist, hydrologist, geologist, water quality scientist, possibly a wildlife biologist to cover non-fish species. Other disciplines not excluded. The Workgroup will ask for advice from Michael Healey and Jeff Mount at CALFED ISB.
- Find a coordinator/facilitator within the Resources Agency to address logistics
- Use DFG guidelines and ask biologists involved in BDCP technical sessions to suggest questions for the science panel as a starting point.
- SAIC will begin inventorying relevant scientific information for panel to review and be familiar with for this process.
- Carl Wilcox, Kim Delfino, Laura King Moon with co-chairs will develop a preliminary list of potential lead scientists.
- Darcy Jones will approach Jeff Mount and Mike Healy about being the lead scientists on both Delta Vision and BDCP.

Discussion and comments
- Workgroup reviewed several examples of independent science processes for other efforts.
- In one example, the science advisors met in public, in others they met in private. DFG recommends using a approach that allows the advisors to meet in private but still allow some degree of public involvement through workshops, etc.
- Several members expressed critical role for early scientific input in the process. DFG recommends having science advisors early.
- Most examples were from typical terrestrial NCCP's. The group recognized that there may be some ways BDCP will be different.

- Members agreed that independence of panel is important for integrity and to meet regulatory requirements of NCCP.
- The group recognized that science will be incorporated into BDCP through science advisors as well as other formal and informal mechanisms.
- Issue: Do we want a panel of science advisors for BDCP or just use the existing CALFED ISB? The group reviewed a number of different models that could be used. All would need a lead scientist on the panel who understands the regulatory and policy process, and who can keep the group focused.
    - Example of Delta Vision approach with Jeff Mount and Michael Healy as two independent science leads. Note that Michael Healy has expressed interested in helping BDCP.
    - IEP has a chief scientist who reports to a lead scientist.
    - South Bay salt ponds have a hierarchy of scientists for input as needed, while the ISP developed the adaptive management plan

After reviewing examples, the members agreed that they wanted to identify a lead scientist as well as a coordinator/facilitator and that there was a need to have someone who understands the regulatory process. Coordinator/facilitator would be responsible for *per deim*, travel, etc. This capacity exists within The Resources Agency or one of its departments. The lead scientist would serve the substantive role with the panel.

- The group discussed the possibility of having Mike Healy and/or Jeff Mount play the role of lead scientist and did not rule this out.
- Laura King Moon agreed to work to develop an inventory of what science panels had already been convened and what independent reviews had already been done.
- The Science Workgroup will review the structure of other efforts to develop the structure best suited to our process.
    - review CSA's and Draft Biological/Conservation Objectives after uncertainties have been captured (i.e., after DRERIP and other analysis completed)
    - identify how and where science should be integrated in the BDCP process
    - early input on key conservation principles (prior to decision on CSA screening)
    - see Action Items for list of recommended science positions
    - maintain flexible structure so additional scientists can be added as needed
- Science Workgroup will develop scope of work for lead scientist and science advisors and recommend to the Steering Committee
- BDCP Steering Committee is ultimately responsible for developing the Conservation Goals within BDCP
- Biologists who are participating in the technical sessions could help develop questions for the science advisors

Next Meeting

Thursday, 4/5,10:00-12:00. Location TBD (Cindy Darling will reserve and inform the Workgroup). Subsequently scheduled for Room 1131 with call-in number 916-657-4105.